

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 22220 011746Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
USIE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-07
FRB-03 INR-07 IO-13 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6472

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USOECD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, OECD

SUBJECT: XCSS: EAST/WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS

REF: STATE 176048

1. SUMMARY: TO PREPARE FOR SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION
OF EAST/WEST ECONOMIC ISSUES EXPECTED AT OCTOBER XCSS,
OECD SECRETARIAT INTENDS TO CONVENE AN INFORMAL MEETING
OF SMALL NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS IN SEPTEMBER
TO HELP IT DRAFT AN ISSUES PAPER. TO AVOID IMPLICATION
THAT SECRETARY GENERAL IS ESTABLISHING A NEW RESTRICTED
GROUP, SECRETARIAT WANTS TO INVITE EXPERTS BY NAME
RATHER THAN BY COUNTRY. ACTION REQUESTED: NAME OF
POSSIBLE U.S. EXPERT OR EXPERTS TO ASSIST SECRET-
ARIAT. END SUMMARY.

2. IN LINE WITH ITS LONG-STANDING PLANS TO PULL
TOGETHER VARIOUS STRANDS OF EAST/WEST ECONOMIC
RELATIONS ACTIVITIES IN THE ORGANIZATION FOR
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PAGE 02 PARIS 22220 011746Z

CONSIDERATION BY THE XCSS, THE OECD SECRETARIAT IS IN
THE PROCESS OF DRAFTING AN ISSUES PAPER FOR THE FALL
MEETING OF THIS GROUP. IN ORDER TO GET A BETTER FEEL
FOR HOW GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS VIEW THE MAJOR ISSUES,
THE SECRETARIAT WISHES TO HOLD A SMALL MEETING OF
EIGHT TO TEN GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS DURING THE SECOND
WEEK IN SEPTEMBER TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND GO OVER THE

DRAFT PAPER. AT THIS POINT THEY ARE THINKING IN TERMS TO TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF ISSUES: A) DEBT AND THE TRADE IMBALANCE AND B) QUESTIONS OF GENERAL INTERDEPENDENCE SUCH AS EAST/SOUTH RELATIONS.

3. THE SECRETARIAT IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITIES OF CERTAIN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS ON THE QUESTION OF OECD WORK IN THE EAST/WEST AREA AND ALSO OF THE CRITICISM WHICH COULD BE FORTHCOMING IF ANY KIND OF EXPLICITLY RESTRICTED GROUP WERE CONVENED. THEY THEREFORE WISH TO MAKE THE CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS AS INFORMAL AS POSSIBLE AND STRONGLY WANT TO INVITE THEM BY NAME RATHER THAN BY COUNTRY. MISSION HAS BEEN APPROACHED INFORMALLY AND ASKED IF WE COULD NAME ONE OR TWO EXPERTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS WORK WHO WOULD THEN BE FORMALLY INVITED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT CONVENING OF SUCH AN EXPERTS GROUP HAS LONG BEEN A U.S. OBJECTIVE WITHIN OUR EAST/WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS INITIATIVE. IT COULD SERVE BOTH AS A MEANS OF GETTING A BROAD OVERVIEW OF THIS MANY-FACETED AREA AND AS A PLACE FOR THE MAIN OECD COUNTRIES TO EXCHANGE VIEWS INFORMALLY ON KEY E/W ECONOMIC ISSUES. (THE U.S. COULD, FOR EXAMPLE, REITERATE ITS INTEREST IN EAST-SOUTH RELATIONS PER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 22220 011746Z

REFTEL, CONTENTS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO SECRETARIAT.) WHEN RAISED FORMALLY AT THE XCSS, HOWEVER, THE EXPERTS GROUP IDEA WAS NOT ACCEPTED BY SOME DELEGATIONS. WE BELIEVE THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S INFORMAL APPROACH TO CONVENING THIS GROUP ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE IS A GOOD ONE WHICH WOULD AVOID THE PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED EARLIER, AND WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT THE U.S. PROVIDE THE NAME OF AN EXPERT OR EXPERTS FOR THE SEPTEMBER MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SECRETARIAT WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY U.S. SUGGESTIONS REGARDING EXPERTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE AT THE PROPOSED INFORMAL MEETING.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 01-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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